

SS InTouch – March

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- **2008 Legislative Update** – The bill that appears to have the most direct impact on Indiana school counselors is House Bill 1246 which is still alive and currently would:
 - Require students in 6th grade to develop an initial “Graduation Plan” (to be completed by the student with help from a school counselor) that would include:
 - A statement of intent to graduate from high school, and
 - Acknowledgment of the importance of:
 - (A) good citizenship;
 - (B) school attendance; and
 - (C) diligent study habits.
 - Require the graduation plan be updated every year and move to the high school.
 - Require the high school to change the title of the high school “Career Plan” to a “Graduation Plan” and include an additional component to the graduation plan that has:
 - An indication of the assessments (other than ISTEP and GQE) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade 10 through grade 12.
 - These could be the SAT, ACT, AP, ASVAB, any Core 40 ECAs and WorkKeys (or any other assessments).

You can read a short summary of this and other proposed bills at

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lsa/session/billwatch/billinfo> by clicking on “Complete Information for All Bills.”

- **2008 State Board of Education Update** – The State Board of Ed is considering major changes to Indiana’s Article 7 (Special Education rules) that would delete the requirement of a GEI and wrap existing services provided to students receiving special education with Student Assistance Services. You can read about the proposal change at http://www.doe.in.gov/super/2008/02-February/020108/agenda_memo-specialed_rules.pdf

The State Board is also considering the removal of all “recommended time allocations” for elementary, middle and high schools.

- **Preparing for the 2008-09 School Year** – please take a moment to answer just TWO questions for us at <http://www.counselingsurveys.org/do.php?survey=s108014> Your answers will help us prepare more effective workshops for **you** next year.

Also, consider these ideas for the coming school year:

- **Gold Star School Counseling** – Schools may once again choose to participate in the four-part, in-person Gold Star workshops in the 08-09 school year or choose the Gold Star online professional development series. Both require an application which you can find at www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling under “Hot Topics.”
- **Elementary School Counselor Grant** applications will be accepted through March 14th. Go to www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling (under “Hot Topics”) for more details and an application.
- **SSS Pilot Project** – Indiana middle schools and elementary schools will be invited to apply very soon for a pilot project of the Student Success Skills initiative that has been overwhelmingly successful in Florida in improving student assessment scores and behavior (see <http://www.studentsuccessskills.com/>) The SSS Application will be available this month.
- **School Counselor Summer Work Group** – Also later this month, you can apply to participate in our SC Summer Work Group. We have done this two years in a row with very successful results.

- A helpful new document titled “Best Practice/Research-Based Prevention and Intervention Resources for School Counselors” has just been developed by Amanda Snobarger and Dee Kempson for Indiana school counselors. Download a copy at http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/best_practice.html

Besides being a great resource, the document provides a list of programs on assessment, evidence-based programs for prevention, early intervention and treatment information designed to meet the social/emotional/behavioral needs of all students as required in the Response to Intervention (RtI) process.

- **Looking for money?** Check out our ongoing list of grant opportunities for schools at: http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/counseling_specific_grants.pdf
- **Elementary School Counselor Updates**
 - Next week is the deadline for the Elementary School Intervention and Career Counseling Grant – which is due March 14th. You can download the application at http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/docs/grant_application.doc

The two-year grant is to be applied to the salary of a full-time elementary school counselor. The grant is available for a two-year period providing a total of \$30,000 to selected schools.

- **Middle School Counselor Updates**
 - Effective next school year, the 21st Century Scholars application eligibility will expand to students in grade 6. The Twenty-first Century Scholars Program will finalize and communicate enrollment processes to schools and community partners by the end of next month (April 2008).

- **High School Counselor Updates**
 - **Indiana’s AP testing program** details for 2008 are now available online at http://www.doe.in.gov/super/2008/02-February/021508/memo_advanced_placement.pdf

This year, state funding will cover the cost of AP science and math exams for students in grades 11 and 12 who are completing the corresponding AP science and math courses. Federal funding will continue to cover the cost of AP exams for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Contact IDOE’s Becky Kennedy for more details at bkennedy@doe.in.gov or 317-232-9112.

- **Hoosier Miss and Mr. Science and Math** - Governor Daniels has announced the creation of the new Hoosier High School Math and Science Awards which will be given each year to the state’s best high school math student and best science student.

All Indiana high school students are eligible to receive the award. The application is online at <https://secure.in.gov/apps/mathscienceawards/> and the deadline to apply is April 4. Winners will be announced before the end of the school year. Nominations from teachers, principals and other school staff members will also be accepted.

- **CHIPS and Hoosier Scholar reporting** should be completed for SSACI by Friday, March 21st, 2008. Directors of Guidance should have received a packet of information in early January that provides introductory guidance for CHIPS and Hoosier Scholar reporting including instructions/checklist, forms, and guidance for frequently asked questions.

Resources

- Register for **ISCA's School Counselor Workshops** at <http://isca-in.org/development/SW%20Registration.pdf> The cost is \$15 for ISCA members and \$25 for non-members. Dates and locations for ISCA workshops are:
 March 7th - Indiana State University, Terre Haute
 March 13th – Ivy Tech NMC, Indianapolis
 March 19th - Ball State University, Muncie
 April 2nd (tentative) - Indiana University Southeast, New Albany

For more information contact Leslie at: lbruggeman@muncie.k12.in.us Both CRU's and PGP's will be available for all participants.

- The **Indiana Counseling Association's Spring Conference** will be April 20-21st at the Sheraton Centre at Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis. Find more details and register for the conference at:
http://www.indianacounseling.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=94517&module_id=28915
- **Project Stepping Stone** is a FREE one-week college preparatory program in early June to help Latino high school seniors and juniors consider and prepare for college. There is no cost to the students or parents but the deadline is April 15th. Details are at
<http://www.projectsteppingstone.com/>
- An Autism Expo, with resources, speakers and entertainment, will be held on Saturday, March 15th at the Junior Achievement Center on Keystone Avenue in Indianapolis. For more information, send an email to: Alison@omalleytherapysolutions.com
- **Managing Explosive Children** is the title of the free luncheon workshop (11:30 to 1 p.m.) for school counselors on March 20th at Valle Vista Hospital in Greenwood featuring Tony Trimble, Ed.S., LMHC, SP, ACC, CFAE. Register by calling 317-887-1348 or 1-800-447-1348 by March 17, 2008
- **IACAC's Spring Membership Meeting & Drive-In Workshops** will be at Butler University on Wednesday, April 16th from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Watch for registration information at www.iacac.net
- The **Greater Indianapolis Northside College Fair** will be held at on Tuesday, April 15, at the Fountains in Carmel. The times of the fair are 6:30- 8:30 p.m. Over 100 colleges and universities to be in attendance that evening. Contact Jim Fadely at University High School at jfadely@universityhighschool.org if you have questions.
- The **Indiana Youth Institute** offers a number of conferences throughout the year. Some of the upcoming conference titles include How Girls Hurt Girls, Motivating Parents to Help their Children, Instilling Character in Young People, and Preparing Grant Proposals. Audio training is also available. Go to <http://www.iyi.org/> for more information.
- Registration for the **ASCA Conference**, in Atlanta, GA from June 28-July 1, is now available online at <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?pl=325&sl=129&contentid=182>

 Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.in.gov/mailman/listinfo/intouch>

Find archived editions of SS InTouch at www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling under "Resources"

*Direct questions or comments to Amanda Snobarger at asnobarg@doe.in.gov – 317-232-9136 or
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